



## HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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TO:  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, April 9, 2015  
TIME: 2:00 P.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 308  
State Capitol

FROM: Dr. Chris Flanders, Executive Director  
Lauren Zirbel, Government Relations

Re: SB304 - RELATING TO HEALTH, Establishing the Maternal  
Mortality Review Panel

Position: Strongly Support

Hawaii Medical Association supports this measure and would like to thank the committee Chair for hearing this important bill. ACOG and DOH met and agreed to the amendments made in House Health Committee. HMA volunteered to be the contractor to administer the Maternal Mortality review panel. HMA used to conduct the Maternal Mortality review before we ran out of funds. Under the proposed amendments, which were agreed to by DOH, DOH would use the \$10,000 to contract with HMA to conduct maternal death reviews.

Hawaii is one of only 13 states without a multi-disciplinary professional panel to review pregnancy-related deaths. Maternal mortality review panels are essential to improving pregnancy care for all patients and it is thought that up to half of all maternal deaths may be preventable. We know that review panels work: unlike overall United States data with rising maternal death rates, the United Kingdom and the state of California have decreased their maternal mortality by identifying missed opportunities and remediable factors in cases of maternal death. Findings from review panels guide the creation of treatment protocols, education campaigns and standardization of pregnancy care. SB304 creates this much needed review panel, made up of volunteer health providers and other members at very minimal cost to the State for a part-time administrative assistant. We are collaborating with the State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) on this bill.

Despite advances in medical care, the U.S. maternal mortality continues to rise and we are the

### *Officers*

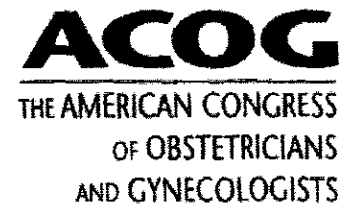
*President - Robert Sloan, MD, President-Elect – Scott McCaffrey, MD*  
*Immediate Past President – Walton Shim, MD, Secretary - Thomas Kosasa, MD*  
*Treasurer – Brandon Lee, MD Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO*

only developed nation with an increasing maternal mortality. The number of reported pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. has increased from 8.4 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1997 to a high of 17.8 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2011 (CDC, 2015). In the 1990s, U.S. officials had hoped to decrease this rate from 8.4 (1997) to 3.3 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2010 (Healthy People 2010), however the actual rate was five times that number. World Health Organization (WHO) estimates for 2013, reveal that 62 countries had lower maternal mortality ratios than the U.S. (WHO, Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990-2013). According to Hawaii Department of Health data, there were 102 maternal deaths from 2001 through 2011, an average of 9 deaths per year.

For each maternal death, there are many more “near misses”. Reviewing maternal deaths highlights areas for improvement in pregnancy care for all women.

The estimated cost of instituting the Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel is only \$10,000 annually for a part time administrative assistant/copying costs. The remainder of the professional panel committee members are volunteers and uncompensated. This is a very minimal cost for such a large benefit to all of Hawaii’s pregnant women.

**American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
District VIII, Hawaii (Guam & American Samoa) Section**  
Lori Kamemoto, MD, MPH, FACOG, Chair  
94-235 Hanawai Circle, #1B  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797



April 9, 2015 – Thursday  
2:00 PM  
Conference Room 308

TO: House Committee on Finance  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

FROM: Lori Kamemoto, MD, MPH, FACOG, Chair  
Greigh Hirata, MD, FACOG, Vice Chair  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Hawaii (Guam & American Samoa) Section

**Re: SB304SD2HD1 - RELATING TO HEALTH, Establishing the Maternal  
Mortality Review Panel**

**Position: Strongly Support with Amendment**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Committee Members:

Thank you for hearing this important Women's Health bill.

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawaii Section (Hawaii ACOG) strongly supports the establishment of a Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel to conduct comprehensive, multidisciplinary reviews of maternal deaths towards improving pregnancy care in our state. This measure establishes the Hawaii maternal mortality review panel to conduct a comprehensive review of maternal deaths that have occurred in the State. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, World Health Organization and many other organizations all strongly recommend that each state have a maternal mortality review panel.

Hawaii is one of only 13 states without a multi-disciplinary professional panel to review pregnancy-related deaths. Maternal mortality review panels are essential to improve pregnancy care for all patients, and it is thought that up to half of all maternal deaths may be preventable. **We know that review panels work: unlike overall United States data with rising maternal death rates, the United Kingdom and the state of California have decreased their maternal mortality** by identifying missed opportunities and

remediable factors in cases of maternal death. Findings from review panels guide the creation of treatment protocols, education campaigns and standardization of pregnancy care. SB304 creates this much needed review panel, made up of **volunteer health providers** and other members at very **minimal cost** to the State for a part-time administrative assistant. **We are collaborating with the State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) on this bill.**

Despite advances in medical care, the U.S. maternal mortality continues to rise and we are the only developed nation with an increasing maternal mortality. The number of reported pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. has increased from 8.4 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1997 to a high of 17.8 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2011 (CDC, 2015). In the 1990s, U.S. officials had hoped to decrease this rate from 8.4 (1997) to 3.3 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2010 (Healthy People 2010), however the actual rate was five times that number. World Health Organization (WHO) estimates for 2013, reveal that 62 countries had lower maternal mortality ratios than the U.S. (WHO, Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990-2013). **According to Hawaii Department of Health data, there were 102 maternal deaths from 2001 through 2011, an average of 9 deaths per year.**

For each maternal death, there are many more "near misses". Reviewing maternal deaths highlights areas for improvement in pregnancy care for all women.

**The estimated cost of instituting the Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel is only \$10,000 annually for a part time administrative assistant/copying costs. The remainder of the professional panel committee members are volunteers and uncompensated. This is a very minimal cost for such a large benefit to all of Hawaii's pregnant women. We do not believe that it will cost more than \$10,000 for a DOH administrative assistant to review an average of 9 maternal deaths per year.**

**Hawaii ACOG strongly supports the establishment of a Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review Panel to benefit all of Hawaii's women, with the amendment that follows.**

We respectfully ask that the following change be made to SB304SD2HD1 to include the original language which allows for the acquisition of data and protection of data sources from liability that is needed to conduct reviews:

**Insert on Page 12, Between Lines 2 and 3 the bill's original language:**

**"Section 324-1 Sources of information protected.** Any person, hospital, sanatorium, nursing or rest home, or other similar medical facility may provide information, interviews, reports, statements, memoranda, or other data or material relating to the condition and treatment of any person to the department of health, to be used in the course of study for the purpose of reducing morbidity or mortality.

No liability of any kind or character for damages or other relief shall arise or be enforced against any person or organization by reason of having provided the information or material, or by reason of having released or published the findings, conclusions, and summaries of the research or study committees to advance medical research or medical education."

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and for your support of Hawaii Women's Health.